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inps journal

Indiana Native Plant Society

Winter 2018-19

We have a new name!

By Michael Homoya

Following a unanimous vote last fall by the INPAWS board and council, the organization known as the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society has become the Indiana Native Plant Society.

Michael Huft

During the annual conference Nov. 3, Ellen Jacquart presented outgoing president Mike Homoya a thank-you for his term, a framed photo of filmy fern, a threatened species he is known to search for in the cliffs of southern Indiana.

We're still the same organization, with the same mission and goals, and are using the same words, just dropping "and Wildflower." I provided INPAWS members reasons for the change last year via the journal and web page blog. If you're interested, I refer you to those, especially the June 9, 2018, blog titled "Considerations and Reasons for Renaming INPAWS." I asked the membership for thoughts regarding the proposal and, if supportive of such a move, what the name should be. In addition to blog responses, I received several emails. Overwhelmingly, the response was to make a change. The most suggested name was the Indiana Native Plant Society. Thank you to everyone who provided input.

By having this new name we avoid the abbreviation that has caused some to think we're an organization about furry four-legged animals. It also gives us a naming style utilized by practically all other organizations with a mission similar to ours. "Fill in the blank Native Plant Society" is a format used and recognized throughout the country and world.

Beginning with the changed masthead on the web page, a new web address (*indianana-tiveplants.org*) and the new journal name, you will see other changes as time goes on. Being good stewards, we won't discard existing printed materials bearing the INPAWS name but will continue to distribute them until the need for reprinting arises.

Inside

Yes, it will take time to become accustomed to a new name and abbreviation. After all, we've been using INPAWS for 25 years now. Eventually the new name will become familiar to our ears. While INPS doesn't form a word, we can say either the new (and now shorter) full name, or spell out its initials, not unlike what is done to identify radio or television stations (e.g., WFYI-TV). Four letters too many to say? Because IN is an abbreviation for Indiana and can be pronounced "N", saying "N-P-S" would seem to work well, at least in casual conversation. Time will tell what works best, but whatever that might be, we will continue to strive to be the best possible advocates for our native Indiana plants.

Michael Homoya is immediate past president of INPS.

Who was Thomas Say?

Naturalist profile

By Terri Gorney

Thomas Say could well be considered Indiana's first naturalist. He lived and worked in the Hoosier state for the last 11 years of his life, during which he published two large volumes of work. He became known as "the Father of Entomology" in the United States.

In 1824, Say discovered a previously unknown firefly, which was named in his honor. It is fitting that in 2018 "Say's firefly" (*Pyractomena angulata*), a "lightning bug" native to Indiana, was named our state insect, bringing Say's name once more into the limelight.

HarmonyonPlanetEarth

Say's phoebe was named for Indiana naturalist Thomas Say, who identified the bird during an expedition in 1819-20.

Say was born into a prominent Philadelphia Quaker family in 1787. He was a self-taught naturalist from a family of distinguished naturalists. The son of Dr. Benjamin Say, he was the great-grandson of famous botanist John Bartram and the great-nephew of William Bartram. As a youth, he spent hours in the Bartram family garden studying insects and sharing his finds with his great-uncle William.

By profession, Say was an apothecary but he became known for his studies of entomology, conchology and herpetology. His contributions to scientific journals and his descriptions of more than 1,400 new insects discovered on expeditions to Florida, Georgia, the Rocky Mountains and Mexico made him internationally known.

In 1819-20, during a Western expedition, he identified, among other species, a bird known to this day as Say's phoebe (*Sayornis saya*).

In 1823, a group of scientists set out on a Northwestern expedition to the source of the St. Peter's River, commissioned by the government. The intended botanist was detained, so the only account of plants on this trip was from Thomas Say, who was listed as the naturalist. As the group approached Ft. Wayne, as related in an 1824 report, "The cotton-wood trees became much larger as we advanced. Mr. Say noticed the Papilio thoas and ajax [butterflies] in great number [and] fine luxuriant growth of white and black oak, beach [sic], hickory, shellbark, etc."

In the vicinity of Chicago, Say recorded nearly a dozen bird species but only two plants: "In the vegetable kingdom, the same gentleman [Say] observed that the Gerardia was found … A beautiful specimen of Cassida was likewise seen." Later in the valley of the St. Peter River, Say added to the expedition's sparse herbarium "a beautiful specimen of the Lilium Philadelphicum, which was still seen flowering. … This plant is considered by the Indians to be a specific against the bite of the rattlesnake."

Except for the "Lilium," it is difficult to fathom what species of flowers were actually found. Cassida is a beetle species, but clearly Say's "Cassida" was a flower. His "Gerardia" could have been one of the 146 species in the genus Gerardia or a foxglove relative that goes by the same name.

In 1826, Say arrived in New Harmony where he met Lucy Way Sistare, whom he married in 1827. While in New Harmony, he created two volumes of work: *Descriptions of the Insects of North America* and *Descriptions of the Shells of North America*.

Lucy, a fine artist and illustrator, was interested in shells and helped with his book on conchology by making the drawings for the plates and helping with their coloration. She became the first woman elected to the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Say was one of the founders of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. When he died at age 47 in 1834 in New Harmony, his collections and books went to the Academy.

Today, Purdue University's Thomas Say Entomological Society is dedicated to undergrads with a passion for insects.

Terri Gorney is a member of INPS Northeast Chapter.

Conference 2018:

Speakers offer reality check, hope

By Patricia Happel Cornwell

Welcoming attendees to the Nov. 3 INPS conference at IUPUI, outgoing president Michael Homoya noted that 2018 was the organization's 25th year. He told a crowd of 340 native plant lovers, "We are a vibrant group of souls striving together to better the world through plants."

Homoya announced that, after a period of online input from members, the board and council have voted to change the organization's name from Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society to simply Indiana Native Plant Society, in keeping with the format of other such entities.

Members voted unanimously to accept a slate of four board members. Tom Hohman and Ruth Ann Ingraham have agreed to serve another two-year term. Ronnie Greenberg of Northeast Chapter and Roger Hedge of Central Chapter will replace outgoing Wendy Ford and Davie Sue Wallace.

Ingraham announced that a children's book on native plants entitled *Wake Up, Woods* will be published in 2019, aimed at those in the primary grades. (See "Birth of a Book" on page 12 of this issue.)

Barbara Homoya, chair of the inaugural Florathon fundraiser, gave awards to the teams who identified the most plants. Fifty individuals participated in 13 teams, surveyed 24 counties, identified 372 species of native plants and recruited 20 new INPS members. Their efforts raised $4,259.25, the proceeds going to INPS's Letha's Youth Outdoors Fund. The team with the most species was the Bloomin' Stellarias led by Ellen Jacquart. (See "First Florathon a success" in our fall issue.) Next year's event will take place from April 13 to May 12.

Conference speakers were Peter Del Tredici of the Urban Planning Dept. of Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Eric Knox and Paul Rothrock of Indiana University's Deam Herbarium; Laura Rericha, wildlife biologist for the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, IL, and co-author with Gerould Wilhelm of the 2017 *Flora of the Chicago Region*; Wilhelm, with the Conservation Design Forum; and Jesse Kharbanda of the Hoosier Environmental Council.

Del Tredici gave two presentations, speaking first on urban ecosystems and later on his research on hemlock trees. In "Urban Nature/ Human Nature," he stated that the vegetation of US cities is now "24 to 35% non-native species," in part because they can grow in fill soils that have replaced native soils. The speaker also described his longterm study of hemlocks (*Tsuga* spp.) and the impact of the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) that is killing the trees.

Michael Huft

A crowd of 340 native plant lovers gathered at IUPUI on Nov. 3.

Knox and Rothrock gave an entertaining demonstration of the uses of the Consortium of Midwest Herbaria data portal (*midwestherbaria.org*) that now contains extensive information on Indiana's native plants. With the help of 100 undergraduate students, the pair have worked to digitize IU Deam Herbarium's 152,000 specimen records as part of the regional data bank. The site can be used to identify puzzling plants. They invited conference-goers to submit their photos of live plants.

Rericha spoke on "The Pollination Biology of Flowers and Their Symbionts," focusing on bees. She described factors that negatively impact bees such as predation, agricultural pesticide and herbicide use, and habitat loss or deterioration. "We are losing the remnants, the hedgerows and roadsides," she said. "We are sterilizing the environment."

Kharbanda encouraged attendees to actively support certain bills in the state legislature to protect the environment, since appropriations for conservation efforts are down. He outlined areas of needed reform, including eliminating air and water pollution caused by confined animal feedlots, expanding greenways to enable more foot traffic and fewer vehicle emissions, and safeguarding Indiana's forests.

Wilhelm mused on "What It Means to be Native." "In nature," he said, "there is almost nothing random going on. It is sweetly designed. This is what we've almost completely designed away from." He discussed the elements that determine whether a landscape is a true native "remnant."

Next year's conference will be Nov. 9 in Fort Wayne.

Patricia Happel Cornwell is co-editor of INPS Journal.

Field notes

By Patricia Happel Cornwell

Bittersweet news

Phys.org, a web site of University of Illinois, says exotic oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is being sold in the Midwest, mislabeled as American bittersweet (*C. scandens*) ("Many Midwestern retailers sell mislabeled invasive vines", Jan. 8, 2018).

Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture

University of Illinois reports that many retailers are selling mislabeled invasive vines such as oriental bittersweet, which can smother mature trees.

Note how native bittersweet carries its fruit in terminal clusters rather than all along the stem.

Botanist David Zaya's team tested 34 plants from 11 vendors in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska; more than half of those labeled as American bittersweet were, in fact, the invasive species that can smother even mature trees. Seven of the 11 vendors got it wrong. Zaya warns, "If it has a picture with yellow berries, don't buy it."

Marsha who?

The Chicago Tribune reported Sept. 6, 2018, that "Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has a new tool for removing non-native species from its wetlands: Marsha." That's what botanist Dan Mason calls the Marsh Master, an amphibious vehicle with a 100-gallon sprayer to kill phragmites, hybrid cattails and other invasives. IDNL rented it the last four years but was finally able to buy it for over $160,000 with donations from numerous organizations. Marsha does the work of 15 people carrying backpack sprayers.

"Plant blindness"

In an Aug. 14, 2018, article in the *Wall Street Journal* ("Rhododendron? Hydrangea? America Doesn't Know Anymore"), Douglas Belkin writes, "The US is running short of people who can tell the forest from the trees. Organizations such as the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management can't find enough scientists to deal with invasive plants, wildfire reforestation and basic land-management issues." Botanists call it "plant blindness." Botanical gardens and colleges, alarmed at the inability of Americans to tell one plant from another, hope more plant ID courses will improve the skills of "a generation of botanists more focused on their microscopes than studying leaf patterns." Bills have been introduced in the US Senate and House to improve botany education.

Urban "heat islands" – trouble for bees

An article in the fall, 2018, issue of *Wings* ("Mitigating the Effects of Heat on Urban Pollinators"), published by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, explains that climate change is not just a problem for big animals like humans and polar bears. "Increasing temperatures can affect bee performance by changing phenology (the timing of biological events such as the rate of development or the date of emergence),and reducing survival rates, body mass, fat storage, and reproduction – and can ultimately result in fewer bees." Researchers at North Carolina

State University showed that the bee population in Raleigh declined an alarming 41% for every 1°C of temperature increase. Plants also respond to climate by reducing the number of flowers and quantities of pollen and nectar, which amplifies the problem for bees. The solution: planting pollinator gardens or patches in private and public urban spaces, "depaving" hard surfaces, and creating eco-roofs, bioswales and other "green infrastructure."

Are monarchs on the rise?

In his Oct. 21, 2018, "Nature" column for the *Columbus Dispatch* (Ohio), Jim McCormac says those who grow milkweed are giving a real boost to these lepidopterans who were thought to be on their way to extinction only five years ago. Last winter, he reports, about six acres of Mexican oyamel fir forest were covered in wintering monarchs, twice the 2013 number. Chip Taylor of Monarch Watch estimates the butterflies could occupy up to 12 acres this winter. However, in 1998 they covered 45 acres, so don't stop planting milkweed!

Managing forests to save warblers

The fall, 2018, issue of *The Woodland Steward* focused on ways that forest management is helping save a disappearing bird species. In "Conserving the Rare Cerulean Warbler in Indiana Forests," Kamal Islam, professor of wildlife biology at Ball State University, describes the multi-agency Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment, a 100-year study that began in 2006 to "examine the effects of timber harvest and prescribed burns on plant and animal populations." Islam says the population of the cerulean warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*), listed as endangered in Indiana and Canada, has declined 70% since 1966, in part from loss of habitat and the practice of fire suppression. The species, which nests primarily in oaks and hickories, needs openings in the forest canopy to establish and defend its territories.

Chickadees in peril

A three-year study of Carolina chickadees (*Poecile carolinensis*) in urban habitats has found that this species, and likely other insectivorous birds, needs *at least* 70% native plants in order to thrive and reproduce. An Oct. 31, 2018, article at *Smithsonian.com* ("Ecologists Have This Simple Request to Homeowners – Plant Native") reports on a study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in which researchers and 150 homeowners cooperated to monitor the interaction among plants, insects and birds. Scientists tracked 800 adult chickadees using radio telemetry transmitters. As the proportion of non-native biomass increased, the birds were forced to adjust their diet and as a result did not reproduce successfully enough to maintain a stable population. One pair of breeding chickadees needs a territory of 50 meters (approximately 55 yards) in radius.

Dick Daniels –Wikimedia

Ecologists are asking homeowners to plant natives to support species such as the Carolina chickadee, which needs a territory of 50 meters and at least 70% native plants to reproduce successfully.

Save the date:

INPS plant sale

The annual INPS native plant sale and auction will be May 11 at Park Tudor High School in Indianapolis. Our VP Ellen Jacquart will be the morning speaker. Watch for details on the INPS web site and in the spring issue of *INPS Journal*.

Urban renewal:

By Winnie Mikeska

When we moved to our home in Corydon in Harrison County 25 years ago, our almost one-acre yard needed a lot of work. We had about 20 large trees and many large stumps. There were a few good perennials the previous owners had planted, such as coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*), monarda (*Monarda didyma*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) and columbine (*Aquilegia spp.*). There were also a few not so good ones like winter creeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) and periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), which I liked – before I joined INPS three years ago. When I attended the 2015 conference and heard Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke speak, I was hooked on native plants. Now I am dedicated to learning which plants are native, which aren't, and which non-natives are harmfully invasive.

Winnie Mikeska

Above, spiderwort, wild geraniums and common blue violets are good companions in the Mikeska landscape. At right, (top) an Eastern tiger swallowtail nectars on purple coneflower and (bottom) a monarch feeds on liatris blooms.

Before I joined, I encouraged the winter creeper and periwinkle. Periwinkle gave me joy as the first thing to bloom in the spring. I was an avid fan of "Victory Garden" on TV and remember winter creeper being praised often. I planted English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and liriope (*Liriope spicata*). I transplanted periwinkle around the Cleveland pear tree (*Pyrus calleryana*) we planted in the front yard. In subsequent years, we planted two Bradford pear trees (also *P. calleryana*) that we got from the Arbor Day Foundation. I'm ashamed to admit that we encouraged a burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) that came with the property and even planted two more.

I can hear you saying, "Oh, no! Oh, no!" But those pear trees will have been eliminated by the time you read this. The periwinkle, ivy and liriope are almost totally eradicated. The burning bushes are absolutely gone.

I planted liriope around a sugar maple tree (*Acer saccharum*) and battled the volunteer violets (*Viola sororia*) so the liriope could take hold. After a few years, the liriope was thick and lush, but grass started to grow in the bed, and it was very hard to keep neat. Liriope may not be considered invasive in Indiana yet, but it is in parts of the southeastern US. Now I prefer violets over liriope because violets support so much more life. I am battling the liriope and encouraging the violets, and the violets are winning! Grass doesn't have a chance to infiltrate a good stand of violets, which is becoming a beautiful ground cover that will soon be maintenance-free.

I love violets, but I just never had any respect for them. As a kid growing up in Pennsylvania, I picked flowers for my Mom: dandelions, clover and violets. Violets were so common I didn't appreciate them. Now I know they support many different butterflies. I noticed that tall plants like spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*) that tend to fall over are well-supported by the violets growing among them.

Now let's talk about insects. Who would have thought that I would someday welcome insects to my yard? I had always wished for an insect-free environment. Isn't this what the commercial landscape vendors encourage? At that conference in 2015, Doug Tallamy's presentation enlightened me. I never before imagined that I would be joyful seeing insect damage on the leaves of my prized plants, but I am now. I remember Dr. Tallamy saying that insect damage won't kill a plant and you probably won't even notice it unless you're looking for it.

I remember several years ago picking off and killing a caterpillar on a parsley plant. Now I regret that I probably killed a black swallowtail butterfly. My whole mindset has changed. Now I appreciate the insects that I used to detest. Why

my passion for natives

did God make butterflies so beautiful? In my opinion, it's so that we can come to appreciate all insects.

I remember Rick Darke saying it is okay to mix some exotics with natives, as long as the exotics are not invasive. I was happy to hear that. Yes, I still like my lilacs (*Syringa* spp.), hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) and irises (*Iris* spp.). They bring beauty with their blossoms and have a place in my yard, but there will be no new plantings of exotic perennials from now on. If a flower doesn't attract a bee or a hummingbird, if a leaf stays whole and no creature is fed by it, they are just pretty faces. They have their place, but now it's a small place among the native plants that support the web of life.

Before I joined INPS, every spring I bought flats of annuals and an occasional perennial that I always thought was too expensive. Now my money is spent at our native plant sale in Indianapolis, where I can be sure everything I buy is native. I travel more than two hours to attend the plant sale in the spring. I refuse to buy plants from local nurseries unless I can be absolutely sure that they are not invasive plants. I don't know of any place close by where I can find a good selection of native plants.

I found wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) at the INPS plant sale, and it has been a great replacement for the periwinkle that I weeded out. At the sale, I also purchased red chokeberry bushes (*Aronia arbutifolia*). In fall, the chokeberries' leaves are just as vividly red as those of burning bushes.

There is one edge of our yard that I call "the thicket," where I have convinced my husband to stop mowing to give wild plants a chance to grow and where I weed out known bad plants and let unknowns grow to see what they might be. This is where I discovered white snake root (*Ageratina altissima*) and wild petunia (*Ruellia humilis*). This area has three large arrowwood viburnum bushes (*Viburnum dentatum*), which we planted years ago (and later were delighted to find out are native), several small volunteer maples and lots of "weeds."

A few years ago this area was totally covered with garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and winter creeper. As soon as I learned that garlic mustard is invasive I began weeding it out. This year I weeded out just a few garlic mustard plants. I will keep weeding them each spring and hope someday they will be completely gone. The winter creeper is gone; in its place is Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), a most desirable plant whose beautiful red leaves are spectacular in the fall.

Winnie Mikeska

Transforming our yard to a mostly native environment has become my latest passion. My first passion from childhood was bird-watching. I came late in life to a passion for native plants. I realize now that these two go hand in hand as part of the web of life. Hoping to attract a greater variety of birds and butterflies, we have planted red twig dogwoods (*Cornus sericea*) and spicebushes (*Lindera benzoin*), all purchased at the INPS plant sale. Every spring, it's a new adventure to go to the plant sale to see what interesting plants have been donated to be sold.

There used to be a commercial that said, "Nature's messy, clean it up." Well, I say, "Nature's beautiful, let it be."

Winnie Mikeska is a member of INPS South Central Chapter.

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Mission

To promote the appreciation, preservation, scientific study, and use of plants native to Indiana.

To teach people about their beauty, diversity, and importance to our environment.

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Share online: Send information for posting to *webmaster@indiananativeplants.org*.

Letha's Outdoor Fund

Grants help kids experience nature

During the 2017-18 school year, 17 grants from INPAWS' Letha's Fund took 1,926 students into the great outdoors. Supported activities included hikes, creating educational green spaces, bird banding, garlic mustard pulling, a nocturnal animals program and more.

A total of $6,518 was disbursed, averaging $3.38 per student, although approved requests exceeded $17,000. Chairperson Angela Sturdevant reports that due to budget constraints, the committee was unable to fully fund the amounts requested.

Grants went to entities from St. Joseph County in the north to Monroe County in the south. Five of the 17 awards (29%) went to organizations in Marion County and Indianapolis.

Applicant	*County*	*Trip location*	*Approved*
Center Grove MS North	Morgan	Educational Greenspace project at school	$ 500
Penn High School	St. Joseph	Indiana Dunes West Beach Succession Trail	$ 836
Chandler Elementary	Elkhart	Amigo Centre, Sturgis, MI	$ 618
MSD Decatur Township (Blue Academy)	Marion	Earth Discovery Center (nocturnal animals)	$ 600
Bloomington HS North	Monroe	6 stream locations in northern Monroe	$ 650
New Augusta Public Academy South	Marion	Holliday Park & Nature Center	$ 228
Greenwood Schools (Westwood Elementary)	Johnson	Camp Tecumseh, Brookston, IN	$ 500
Goshen High School	Elkhart	Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center	$ 189
Sycamore Land Trust	Monroe +	SLT Environmental Education's Native Plant Project. trips to 9+ schools	$ 855
Fremont Middle School	Steuben	Brennan Woods Nature Preserve	$ 430
Children of the Earth	Lake	Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center	$ 538
Fairfield Elementary	Allen	Little River Wetlands Project (Eagle Marsh)	$ 53
IPS 84 Center for Inquiry	Marion	Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary, Connersville	$ 600
Indianapolis Math & Sci. Academy North	Marion	Marian University Ecolab	$ 289
KinderCare Learning Center Intech Blvd	Marion	Eagle Creek Park Earth Discovery Center	$ 190
Eastern Elem. PTO	Howard	Camp Tecumseh, Brookston, IN	$ 500
Cope Environmental Ctr.	Wayne +	Cope Environmental Center	$ 350

Chapters have a busy

INPS at work

Central

Central Chapter members had a busy September. Sue Arnold hosted a "pop-up" garden tour at her home in Brownsburg on Sept. 1. Also in September, Tom Hohman presented a program on "Why Indiana Native Plants?" at the Irvington Branch Library and again at Lilly Nature Center at Celery Bog Nature Area in West Lafayette.

Members participated in "Nature Daze" Sept. 8 at Camp Rancho Framasa in Nashville, IN. The monthly meeting Sept. 9 featured a presentation on bees and pollination by Doug Rohde and Deb Rood at Union Chapel United Methodist Church.

Central member Brooke Alford teamed up with Alicia Douglass from East Central to work the INPS exhibit table at the INASLA (Indiana Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects) annual meeting Sept. 14 at the NCAA Hall of Champions in Indianapolis. Brooke is Central Chapter's newest board member.

Karen Griggs

Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners held an open house in July showcasing native plants purchased with a grant from INPS.

Chapter members Crystal Renskers, Judith Lieberman, and Ben R. Hess helped with the Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Bio Blitz at West Park on Sept. 15 after the parks department asked the chapter to provide expertise. The department has been working with University High School students to collect first-time baseline data at the park.

Ruth Ann Ingraham gave a talk entitled "Life on a Diet of Decay" on the fruiting conditions for fungi at the chapter's Oct. 8 meeting at the Nora Library.

The chapter's SWAT team removed invasives at Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park Sept. 22, Holliday Park Oct. 3, Potter's Bridge Park Oct. 11 and Thornwood Preserve Nov. 4.

North

A special program and hike in October were part of a full season of botanizing opportunities for North Chapter members. Casey Jones (ACRES Land Trust) and Scott Namestnik (INPS) introduced members to a newly acquired fen in LaGrange County. Casey gave a historical account of the property, which began as a marl pit that was harvested for over 40 years. In the 1980s plant inventories were taken of the area surrounding the lake. ACRES obtained the property on Dec. 11, 2017, the bicentennial of the Nature Trust and Conservation Fund. Scott discussed some of the previous plant inventories and brought the group up to date on the inventory of the property that he more recently produced.

After the presentation, members car-pooled to the fen. Scott led a hike around the fen and pointed out plants on the list that were still blooming. ACRES will manage the property, but it remains closed to the public.

On Dec. 2 two members hosted the chapter's annual potluck and membership meeting.

Northeast

Northeast Chapter's annual meeting took place in October at the Forks of the Wabash in Huntington. Forty members and guests were treated to a presentation on "Stopping Invasive Plants in Indiana" by INPS vice president Ellen Jacquart. She discussed the status of the DNR rule banning sale of invasives in the state and the Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) cell phone app for reporting invasives. The meeting concluded with the biennial election of officers.

South Central

SCINPS member Ellen Jacquart led 20 South Central members on a challenging Sept. 1 hike at Cedar Bluff Nature Preserve in Monroe County.

A "Take Control: Invasive and Native Plant Workshop," a collaboration between MC-IRIS and the City of Bloomington, was conducted

Sept. 8 at RCA Community Park, where Jacquart spoke on invasives identification.

The SCINPS annual meeting was Oct. 27 at Monroe County Public Library, where members heard about plans for 2019 from president Steve Dunbar and the chapter's new chairs of outreach, programs, and hikes. Ellen spoke about the state's Terrestrial Plant Rule that will ban many highly invasive plants.

A prairie garden tour was held Aug. 25 at the home of Howard Webb in Bloomington. The chapter had a booth at SNAYL (Sustaining Nature And Your Land) Day June 16 in Bloomington. Several members have given talks and led hikes for various organizations.

West Central

West Central's fall programs included Tom Hohman speaking about the Indiana Parks Alliance and chapter member Susan Ullrich leading the group in an evening of prairie plant identification. Members heard from Gus Nyberg on "Prairies from Scratch" and Landon Vine on "The Charm of Wetland Plants."

The chapter's monthly meetings are held at Lilly Nature Center in Celery Bog Park, West Lafayette, at 7 p.m. on fourth Mondays.

WCINPS and Sycamore Audubon Society, in cooperation with Tippecanoe County Parks, have been working together to form the RIP Squad (Remove Invasive Plants), a band of dedicated rippers who go to designated areas to remove invaders. In late October the RIP Squad worked to remove invasives during "Pulling for Bats" in honor of Bat Week (*www.batweek.org*). RIP Squad workdays were held at Prophet's Rock near Battleground Oct. 27 and Ross Hills Park Oct. 28.

The chapter has been working with SICIM's (Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management) west central regional specialist Amber Slaughterbeck to develop a CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area), a partnership to eradicate invasive species on the local level using local people and resources. The new designation is R-R-RIPIT: Recognize, Report and Remove Invasive Plants In Tippecanoe. Volunteers are needed. If interested, contact Patty Jones, WCINPS invasives chairperson, at *removeinvasiveplants.wcinps@gmail.com* or 765-463-3050.

autumn

1925-2018

Christine Brewster, PhD

By Ruth Ann Ingraham

Longtime INPS member Christine Brewster died Oct. 4, 2018, in West Lafayette. She was born Aug. 23, 1925, in New Jersey.

Christine moved to West Lafayette from the east coast in 1953 to be a postdoctoral fellow in the chemistry department at Purdue University. A year later, she wed faculty member James Brewster; they later had three daughters.

Brewster family

Chris Brewster in her back yard in 1994

An avid rock collector, Chris earned a master's degree in geology in her fifties and taught geology to public school children until 1991. As if those two fields of science were not enough, she turned her attention to the plant world and became a Master Gardener in 1994.

This was all before I met Chris. Then in the spring of 1999, Carolyn Harstad, Hilary Cox and I, representing (then) INPAWS, drove up to Lafayette where we met with a gathering of people interested in establishing a chapter in the west central area. Chris was the chapter's first chair, a position she held through 2007.

Chris was in her seventies when she became dedicated to the establishment of a prairie at Prophetstown State Park, not far from Lafayette. With a corps of volunteers, she spearheaded planting and seed collection there. Under grow-lights in her basement, Chris raised seedlings and transplanted them in the prairie. In addition, Tippecanoe County parks profited from the time she spent pulling garlic mustard and tackling bush honeysuckle.

Chris's 93 years were packed with pleasures of the great outdoors. She loved to hike, bike and raft. She cared deeply about her hometown, to which she lent her talents and energy, serving on the local school board and working to bring about special education legislation in Indiana.

The Brewster family wishes that memorial contributions be made to Indiana Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 501528, Indianapolis, IN, 46250; NICHES Land Trust, 1782 N 400E, Lafayette, IN, 47905; or the Wabash Center, 2000 Greenbush St., Lafayette, IN, 47904.

Harstad Memorial

Memorial contributions in honor of the late Carolyn Harstad, a co-founder of INPAWS (INPS) who died on July 24, 2018, may be made to the Peter and Carolyn Harstad Scholarship Fund and mailed c/o Bethany Lutheran College, 700 Luther Dr., Mankato, MN 56001.

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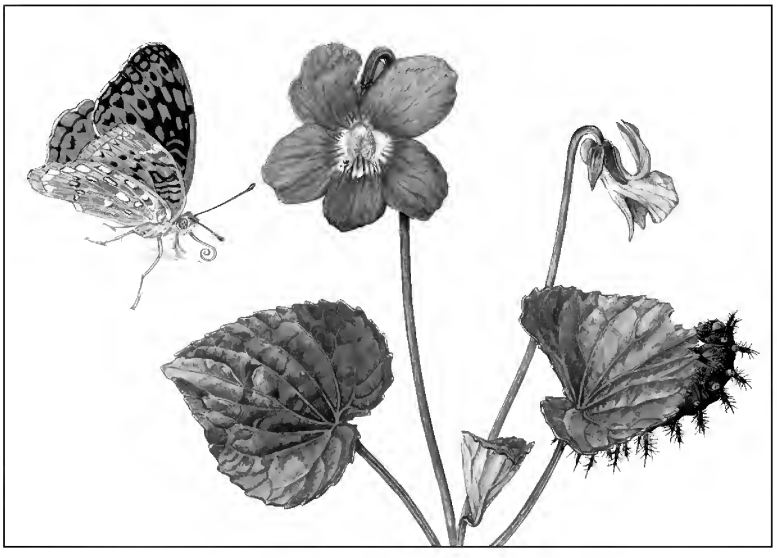
Birth of a book: Wake up, Woods

By Ruth Ann Ingraham

A children's book initiated by INPS at a spring retreat in 2016 will soon make its debut: *Wake Up, Woods*. The concept stemmed from a discussion three years ago about ways to connect young people to nature. What about a book, or a series of books, for young people about native plants?

Melissa Moran and I volunteered to investigate whether there was interest in a book that would feature plants with intriguing common names such as "green dragon" and "bloodroot." We interviewed elementary school teachers, librarians and a book store owner and concluded that such a book would be both desirable and unique. That feedback spurred us on. With enthusiastic support from INPS, Melissa and I began the lengthy process.



Gillian Harris

We built an editorial team of creative and knowledgeable people to bring the book to fruition: Gillian Harris, botanical artist; Shane Gibson, verse writer; Mike Homoya, factual information source; Pat Prather, book designer. We added a savvy young mom, Carolyn Wamsley, to our editorial group.

The result is *Wake Up, Woods,* a richly-colored children's book to be launched this year, intended for students in the primary grades. Whimsy adds to the beauty and science of a selection of native plants that spring to life when winter wanes and the sun streams through the bare trees to warm the earth. Various life forms cooperate to assure that these plants reproduce and thrive. We pay special attention to pollinators and seed dispersers.

Plants featured in 12 two-page spreads are violets, trilliums, Christmas fern, green dragon, jack-in-the-pulpit, bloodroot, mayapple, columbine, fire pink, Dutchman's breeches, squirrel corn, wood poppy, bluebells, toothwort, spring beauty and trout lily.

We are grateful to the organizations that have financially supported publication of *Wake Up, Woods:* INPS, The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Academy of Science, Sycamore Land Trust and NICHES Land Trust. Dozens of individuals have donated as well.

Is this the first in a series? Time will tell.

Ruth Ann Ingraham headed up the creative team that developed Wake Up, Woods.